

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 13 and ending on page 4, line 20, with the following amended paragraph:

In one embodiment herein, a pressable dental ceramic pellet or blank is formed from a mixture of at least one glass frit, at least one glass-ceramic frit and at least one refractory filler. Preferably, the glass frit is present in an amount of from about 40 to about 65 percent by weight, the glass-ceramic frit is present in an amount of from about 35 to about 60 percent by weight and the refractory filler is present in an amount from about 0.5 to about 10 percent by weight. The glass-ceramic frit contains an amount of leucite of at least 60 percent by weight to provide an amount of leucite in the final dental ceramic composition of less than or equal to about 35 percent by weight. The refractory filler may comprise an amorphous silica in the form of a fused silica, fumed silica and mixtures thereof.